

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1- 5, 8 and 11-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 6, 7 and 9 have been amended, and new claims 16-22 have been added. No new matter has been submitted.

Independent claims 6 and 9 have previously been indicated as including allowable subject matter. Therefore, with independent claims 6 and 9 being allowable, it is further submitted that claims 7 and 10, respectively depending from claims 6 and 9, are also allowable.

New Claims 16-22 were discussed in a recent Examiner Interview, where applicants particularly pointed out the patentably distinguishing features of the proposed new claims.

NEW CLAIMS

As pointed out in the Examiner Interview, new claims 16-22 at least set forth particular features not previously disclosed or suggested in any of the previously cited references.

Particularly, independent claim 16 sets forth the write protection method with the recording medium "separately" including a Lead-in area, a Lead-out area, a user area, and a recording information area having a Power Calibration Area (PCA) and a Recording Management Area (RMA). Thus, the RMA area is particularly distinguished from the separate lead-in area, as the Examiner questioned whether some prior art could store some write protection in a lead-in area.

In addition, independent claim 16 further requires the storing of write protection information to control protection of data, including the entire recording medium, except for the RMA, from unwanted writing or erasing. Thus, distinguishable from other write protection schemes where individual data is protected, the entire recording medium is protected, except for the claimed RMA area.

The remaining claimed features point out that the method further includes "checking the write protection information stored in at least one area of the RMA area of the recording medium," and "prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium when the write protection information of the recording medium is set to a write protection state."

These claimed features, in conjunction with the particularly detailed features of the recording medium, patentably distinguish new claims 16-22 over previously cited prior art.

Therefore, for at least the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 16-22 are in proper condition for allowance.

POTENTIAL DOUBLE PATENTING

Applicants are presently reviewing the present application and related applications for potential obviousness-type double patenting issues. Terminal disclaimers will be filed in the near future, at least where there is any potential double patenting issues, merely to remove such issues and advance the present application to allowance in a speedily manner.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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